

[6 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As informed by the Bar Council of India, the total number of Law Colleges in the country, as per the list maintained by the Council, is 414.

(b) The number of Law Colleges in the State of Andhra Pradesh having approval of affiliation of the Bar Council of India is 43.

(c) The Bar Council of India has declined approval of affiliation/ continuance of approval of affiliation to various Law Colleges in the country, from time to time. The figures for the last six years are as under:—

Year	New Law Colleges refused	Existing Law Colleges refused
1995	7	1
1996	8	3
1997	17	29
1998	48	17
1999	23	12
2000	8	10

(d) The reasons for withdrawing or declining approval of affiliation to Law Colleges by the Bar Council of India are mainly lack of infrastructure, poor library facilities, absence of fulltime teachers, shortage of proper accommodation and fact of certain colleges being multi faculty colleges having common facilities.

Legal aid to poor people in Himachal Pradesh

1617. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount fixed for legal aid to poor people under the "legal aid to poor" in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the number of poor people in the State, particularly in far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh who have received free legal aid during the last three years district-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Government have made any survey in this behalf; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Under the provisions of section 12 of the Legal Services

Authorities Act, 1987, persons belonging to weaker sections of the society such as, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women/Child, mentally ill and disabled persons, any person in custody and all other persons who are earning less than Rs. 25,000/- per annum, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than Rs. 50,000/- if the case is before the Supreme Court are entitled to receive free legal services.

(b) Number of poor people who have been provided free legal aid during the last three years viz. 1998, 1999 and 2000 is as under:

Year	Number of Persons
1998	178
1999	303
2000	232

The district-wise figures are not available as National Legal Services Authority is maintaining consolidated figures State-wise;

(c) No survey has been carried out at the instance of National Legal Services Authority;

(d) Does not arise.

Issue of Photo Identity Cards in Himachal Pradesh

1618. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of voters provided with photo identity cards in the State of Himachal Pradesh till the end of June, 2001, District-wise; and

(b) by when such identity cards will be issued to all voters and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon alongwith the details thereof, District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The total number of voters provided with voters' photo identity cards upto 30.6.2001 in Himachal Pradesh is 26,57,394 (70.42%), the district-wise break up of which is given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. (*See below*).

(b) According to the Election Commission of India, the scheme of issue of photo identity cards to electors is not a project but a programme and no time limit can be fixed for completion of such a programme. The registration of electors is a continuous process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filling nomination and completion of election process) as every new